

FBOM KHARTOUM TO LONDON

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after all of us who are now alive are dead,"
the question
of publication was referred to Sir George, who
replied on
May 29, 1919: "I do not hesitate to say that it
should be
published and the sooner the better. The world
would be
much the richer for it. The times are such that
the human
interest and solid value of this wonderful
paper would be
very great indeed *now*."

THE LETTEE

SAGAMORE HILL, OYSTER BAY. NEW
YORK,

Oct. 1,
1911.

To the Right Hon. Sir George Trevelyan, Bart.

Dear Sir George:

Sixteen months have passed since that very
enjoyable
Sunday I passed at your house. In the
evening I finally
told you that I would try to write an account of
the intimate
side of my trip from Khartoum to London, and
send it to
you for the eyes only of you yourself and your
family. I
am not quite sure I ought to write it even to
you! How-
ever, I shall, just for the satisfaction of telling
you things
most of which it would be obviously entirely
out of the
question to make public, at any rate until long
after all of
us who are now alive are dead. By that time in
all proba-
bility this letter will have been destroyed; and
in any event
interest in what it relates will have ceased.
Meanwhile, if
you enjoy reading what I have set down, I
shall be repaid;
and moreover, I am really glad for my own
sake to jot
down some of the things that occurred,
before they grow

so dim in my mind that I can no longer enjoy
the memories,
and look back at some with laughter and at
others with
sober interest.

I journeyed down the Nile, passing through
stratum after
stratum of savagery and semi-civilization. At
first I was
among men who, in culture, were more like our
own palaeo-
lithic forefathers than the latter were to us;
and then up
through level after level as we went steadily
northward
with the current of the great stream, each
stage represent-